

**Royalton Township Board of Trustees  
Regular Board Meeting October 9, 2023  
Royalton Township Hall**

The regular October 9, 2023 meeting of the Royalton Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Supervisor Robert Basselman.

*Members Present:* Robert Basselman, Supervisor; Rachel Bernard, Clerk; Michael Eisenhart, Treasurer; Julie Marsh, Trustee; Jason Ackerman, Trustee

*Members Absent:* None

*Others Present:* Steve Tilly, Township Manager; Tony Riegel, Building/Official Zoning Administrator

**Motion by Bernard to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Eisenhart.**

**Ayes:** Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:** (Motion carried 5-0)

**Motion by Ackerman to approve the September 11, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting minutes and Regular Board minutes and the September 25, 2023 Special Meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Marsh.**

**Ayes:** Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:** (Motion carried 5-0)

Eisenhart presented the Treasurer's Report for September 2023 showing a total fund balance of \$2,885,834.92.

**Motion by Marsh to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Ackerman.**

**Ayes:** Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:** (Motion carried 5-0)

**Motion by Eisenhart to approve the tax disbursements of \$6,099,500.40 and the payment of bills for September 2023 totaling \$170,046.22, and payroll totaling \$35,252.86. Seconded by Marsh.**

**Ayes:** Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:** (Motion carried 5-0)

Planning Commission Report: Minutes presented at meeting. The Woodland Terrace addition was approved and the On Site Solar Energy draft ordinance was reviewed and will be ready for another review at the November Planning Commission meeting. No action was taken.

Library Report: Presented at the meeting. No action was taken.

Sheriff's report for August 2023 was submitted prior to meeting. No action was taken.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Tilly received a quote for the Mandiberry replacement grinder pump. A Myers and a Barnes are available, the Barnes pump is cheaper.

**Motion by Eisenhart to approve the quote for the Mandiberry replacement Barnes grinder pump for \$7,459 as presented. Seconded by Ackerman.**

**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain: (Motion carried 5-0)**

~~**Motion by Eisenhart to approve the Berrien County Sportsman's Club Compton Traditional Bowhunters Archery Shoot Outdoor Assembly permit for June 15 – 18, 2023. Seconded by Ackerman.**~~

~~**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**~~

~~**Nays:**~~

~~**Absent:**~~

~~**Abstain: (Motion carried 5-0)**~~

Tilly discussed the recommendation by the Township assessor to participate in the oblique imagery of Berrien County. This would cost the Township \$900.00 beginning in 2024 for six years. It would be cheaper for the County to undertake this than if local units independently purchased the product on their own. If there is enough interest the County will move forward, this is not a firm commitment.

**Motion by Eisenhart to approve participation in the oblique aerial imagery for \$900.00 a year for six years beginning in 2024 if it is offered by the County. Seconded by Bernard.**

**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain: (Motion carried 5-0)**

Tilly presented Budget amendments to the board.

**Motion by Eisenhart to approve the budget amendments for the 2023-2024 budget as presented. Seconded by Ackerman.**

**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain: (Motion carried 5-0)**

Tilly discussed the Executive Directive 2010-10 that would make "a Township ordinance, rule, policy or requirement currently in place for solar, wind and large-scale solar facilities would be null and void." The Michigan Townships Association has provided a Resolution in Opposition to Local Preemption on Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities if local jurisdictions are interested in adopting it.

**Motion by Bernard to approve the Resolution in Opposition to Local Prememption on Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities. Seconded by Marsh. Roll call was taken.**

**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**

**Nays:**

**Absent:**  
**Abstain:**

**(Motion carried 5-0)**

Business from Audience: A Royalton Township resident would like the board to reconsider allowing the sale of recreation marihuana in the Township. A second Royalton Township resident said that they liked the way things were and did not think Royalton needed to allow the sale of recreational marihuana when it can be purchased 3 miles down the road.

Items not on Agenda:

A Royalton Township resident expressed that she is unhappy with the state of her neighbor's property. It is a mess with lots of trash and vehicles in the yard. The neighbor was served by the Township with a notice in April and has slowly been cleaning up his property. However, he has a camper and trash that is on her property, and she cannot have her fence installed until it is moved off her property. Tilly stated that he will speak with the Zoning and Ordinance Administrator and have him issue another notice to get the items moved off her property faster.

Julie Wuerful gave updates from the County. The County Board of Commissioners tabled their solar resolution and asked if Tilly could send her the resolution just approved at this meeting to review. She asked for feedback on the road projects and the process of the group meeting. Basselman stated that he liked when individual jurisdictions meet with the road department individually instead of as a group as it created better relationships.

Committee Reports:

Basselmann (Fire Board) stated that the Fire Department is still working on a proposal for a fire truck, and at this time it is taking 54 months for new trucks to be built.

Tilly (Water & Sewer) stated that the City of St. Joseph will be getting the bill from the water main break that drained Royalton's water tower.

Tilly (Medic I) stated that Medic I is now contracted with Hagar Township, Pipestone and Watervliet and Coloma City and Townships. They are going to put an ambulance in the new Hagar fire station to help service the north County area better.

Riegel (Building report) was submitted prior to meeting.

**Motion to adjourn by Eisenhart at 7:31 PM. Seconded by Marsh.**

**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:**

**(Motion carried 5-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Bernard, Clerk